

DEATH OF SECRETARIES UPSHUR AND GILMER.

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MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

ANNOUNCING

*The death of Secretaries Upshur and Gilmer.*

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FEBRUARY 29, 1844.

Read, and laid upon the table.

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*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States :*

I have to perform the melancholy duty of announcing to the two Houses of Congress the death of the Hon. Abel P. Upshur, late Secretary of State, and the Hon. Thomas W. Gilmer, late Secretary of the Navy.

This most lamentable occurrence transpired on board the United States ship-of-war the Princeton, on yesterday, at about half after four o'clock in the evening, and proceeded from the explosion of one of the large guns of that ship.

The loss which the Government and the country have sustained by this deplorable event, is heightened by the death at the same time, and by the same cause, of several distinguished persons and valuable citizens.

I shall be permitted to express my great grief at an occurrence which has thus so suddenly stricken from my side two gentlemen upon whose advice I so confidently relied in the discharge of my arduous task of administering the office of the executive department, and whose services at this interesting period were of such vast importance.

In some relief of the public sorrow which must necessarily accompany this most painful event, it affords me much satisfaction to say that it was produced by no carelessness or inattention on the part of the officers and crew of the Princeton, but must be set down as one of those casualties which, to a greater or less degree, attend upon every service, and which are invariably incident to the temporal affairs of mankind. I will also add, that it in no measure detracts, in my estimation, from the value of the improvement contemplated in the construction of the Princeton, or from the merits of her brave and distinguished commander and projector.

JOHN TYLER.

WASHINGTON, February 29, 1844.

DEATH OF SECRETARIES UPSHUR AND GILMER

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

ALBANY

The death of Secretaries Upshur and Gilmer.

FEBRUARY 23, 1844

Read, and laid upon the table.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States

I have in return the melancholy duty of announcing to the two Houses of Congress the death of the Hon. Abel P. Upshur, late Secretary of State, and the Hon. Thomas W. Gilmer, late Secretary of the Navy.

This most lamentable occurrence transpired on board the United States frigate of war the Princeton, on yesterday, at about half past twelve in the evening, and proceeded from the explosion of one of the large guns of that ship.

The loss which the Government and the country have sustained by this calamitous event is heightened by the death at the same time and by the same cause of several distinguished persons and valuable citizens.

I shall be permitted to express my great grief at an occurrence which has thus so suddenly stricken from my side two gentlemen upon whose advice I so confidently relied in the discharge of my arduous task of administering the office of the executive department, and whose services at this interesting period were of still vast importance.

In some relief of the public sorrow which must necessarily accompany this most painful event, it affords me much satisfaction to say that it was produced by no carelessness or inattention on the part of the officers and crew of the Princeton, but must be set down as one of those casualties which to a greater or less degree attend upon every service, and which are inevitably incident to the temporal affairs of mankind. I will also add that it is no means detracted in my estimation from the value of the important services contemplated in the construction of the Princeton, or from the merits of her brave and distinguished commander and pilot.

JOHN TYLER

Washington, February 23, 1844